

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-5, 17-19, and 66-68, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6-16, and 20-65, and add Claims 69-77 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Method of predicting [[the]] a quantity of a printing product necessary for printing a document, ~~characterised in that it comprises of~~ comprising the steps of:

on storing ~~the whole of said~~ a document in the form of in its entirety as digital data[[,]];

dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data;

creating, from [[these]] the digital data, a table (T) of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of ~~said document~~ one of the bands, [[said]] with the monochromatic component corresponding to [[said]] the printing product and each cell of [[said]] the table representing at least a pixel[[,]];

counting (6) [[the]] a number of ~~so-called~~ switched-on pixels in [[this]] the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected; and

deriving ~~therefrom~~ from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of [[said]] the printing product before enabling or demanding

[[said]] printing.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that an aforementioned~~

wherein the table (T) of limited capacity is created with ~~limited~~ a capacity[[,]] less than [[the]] a capacity necessary for describing [[said]] the monochromatic component of ~~said document~~, in that,

wherein groups of pixels of [[said]] the monochromatic component of ~~said document~~ are entered therein successively, ~~in that~~ and

wherein, on each occasion [[the]] of counting, a number of switched-on pixels is counted (6) until all [[said]] the monochromatic component of ~~said document~~ has been entered in [[said]] the table and [[its]] the switched-on pixels have been counted.

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Claims 3-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): Method according to [[claim]] Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ further comprising a calculation step (10) ~~consists~~ of multiplying the number of switched-on pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of [[said]] the printing product.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 6, wherein the

method is for an inkjet printing system, ~~characterised in that said~~ and wherein the value represents ~~[[the]]~~ a value of a droplet of the printing product that is ejected.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that said wherein the~~ value is preselected according to predetermined parameters, ~~such as, for example, the~~ including a type of printer (7) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of cartridge (8) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of printing product (9).

Claim 9 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ a set of ~~[[such]]~~ values is stored and ~~in that one of [[them]]~~ the values is selected according to ~~an actual~~ a combination of ~~[[such]]~~ the predetermined parameters.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that said stored document is divided into pages to be printed (2), in that the aforementioned operations wherein the steps~~ are performed in order to determine ~~[[the]]~~ a number of switched-on pixels (6) corresponding to each page, and ~~in that the wherein a respective~~ quantity of the printing product ~~or products~~ necessary for printing each page is derived therefrom.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 10, ~~characterised in that the wherein~~ necessary quantities of the printing product ~~or products~~ for all ~~[[the]]~~ pages of the document are added (120).

Claim 12 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it consists further comprising the step~~ of producing an item of information ~~which can be used usable~~ by a user from the ~~determined~~ derived necessary quantity of the printing product ~~quantity or quantities~~.

Claim 13 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein the method is implemented in a computer (20) connected to a printer (210).

Claim 14 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it~~ wherein the method is implemented in a computer connected by a network (400) to another computer connected to a printer.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): Device for predicting ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of a printing product necessary for printing a document, ~~characterised in that it has means for storing the whole of said document in the form of digital data, comprising:~~

storage means for storing a document in its entirety as digital data;

divider means for dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data;

creation means for creating, from ~~[[these]]~~ the digital data, a table of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of ~~said document~~ one of the bands, ~~[[said]]~~ with the monochromatic component corresponding to ~~[[said]]~~ the printing product

and each cell ~~in said~~ of the table representing at least a pixel[[,]];

counter means for counting (6) [[the]] a number of so-called switched-on pixels in [[this]] the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected; and

deriver means for deriving ~~therefrom~~ from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of [[said]] the printing product before enabling or demanding [[said]] printing.

Q2 Claim 16 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in that it has an aforementioned~~ wherein the table of limited capacity[[,]] is created with a capacity less than [[the]] a capacity necessary for describing [[said]] the monochromatic component of said document, wherein the device further comprises entry means for successively entering therein groups of pixels of [[said]] the monochromatic component of said document, and wherein the counter means [[for]], on each occasion of counting (6) [[the]], counts a number of switched-on pixels until all the ~~whole of said~~ monochromatic component ~~of said document~~ has been entered in [[said]] the table and [[its]] the switched-on pixels have been counted.


Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising calculation means (10) for multiplying the number of switched-on

pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of ~~[[said]]~~ the printing product.

Claim 21 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 20 ~~[[for]]~~, wherein
the device is included in an inkjet printing system, ~~characterised in that said~~ and wherein the
value represents ~~[[the]]~~ a volume of a droplet of ~~ejected~~ the printing product that is ejected.

Claim 22 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 21, ~~characterised in~~
~~that it has~~ further comprising selection means for preselecting ~~[[said]]~~ the value as a function of
predetermined parameters, ~~such as, for example, the~~ including a type of printer (7) and/or ~~[[the]]~~
a type of cartridge (8) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of printing product (9).

 Claim 23 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 22, ~~characterised in~~
~~that it has~~ further comprising:

second storage means for storing a set of ~~[[such]]~~ values; and

second selection means for selecting one of ~~[[them]]~~ the values according to ~~an~~
~~actual~~ a combination of ~~[[such]]~~ the predetermined parameters.

Claim 24 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in~~
~~that it has means for dividing said stored document into pages to be printed (2);~~

wherein the counter means ~~for determining the~~ determines a number of
switched-on pixels (6) corresponding to each page; and

wherein the deriver means for deriving therefrom the derives from the number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each page, a respective quantity of the printing product or products necessary for printing each page.

Claim 25 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 24, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising adder means (120) for adding ~~[[the]]~~ necessary quantities of ~~the~~ printing product ~~or products~~ for all ~~[[the]]~~ pages of the document.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising production means for producing an item of information ~~which can be used~~ usable by a user from the ~~determined~~ derived necessary quantity of printing product quantity or quantities.

Or
Claim 27 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in that it has~~ wherein the device is utilized with a computer (20) and a printer (210).

Claim 28 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in that it has~~ wherein the device is utilized with a computer connected by a network (400) to another computer connected to a printer.

Claim 29 (currently amended): Method ~~according to Claim 1, for~~ of managing


printing product resources available in a colour printer ~~containing~~ that includes several reservoirs of different printing products, ~~characterised in that it consists~~ comprising the steps of:

dividing (2) a document stored ~~in the form of~~ as digital data[[,]] into groups of [[such]] digital data representing pages[[,]];

predicting (10) [[the]] a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing each page, ~~also~~ of the document, including:

dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data,

creating, from the digital data, a table (T) of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of one of the bands, with the monochromatic component corresponding to the printing product and each cell of the table representing at least a pixel,

 counting (6) a number of switched-on pixels in the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected, and

deriving from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of the printing product before enabling or demanding printing;

measuring (317, 324, 315), before printing, [[the]] a quantity of a printing product ~~actually~~ available in a reservoir, for each reservoir[[,]];

~~seeking~~ determining a selection of pages (415) [[which]] that would ensure [[the]] exhaustion, at least approximately simultaneously, of at least one group of the reservoirs[[,]] and

~~at least~~ sending a message and/or triggering ~~[[the]]~~ implementation of a processing~~[[,]]~~ entailing ~~said selected pages, such as for example the printing of such selected~~ the selection of pages.

Claim 30 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 29, ~~characterised in that it consists~~ further comprising the steps of:

predicting ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing pages in their natural order~~[[,]]~~;

updating, after each series of predictions concerning a page, ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of each printing product ~~[[which]]~~ that would ~~actually~~ be available in each reservoir~~[[,]]~~;

checking (406) after each updating whether a group of at least ~~several~~ at least some of the reservoirs are almost empty, ~~actually printing the pages thus tested;~~ and

Q2 ~~at least~~ sending a message (408)~~[[,]]~~ indicating ~~[[the]]~~ a need to change or fill the group of the reservoirs.

Claim 31 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 30, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, after changing the group of the reservoirs, ~~[[the]]~~ processing (417) is resumed on ~~[[the]]~~ remaining pages of the document, ~~considering taking into consideration~~ a reduced number of pages.

Claim 32 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 30, ~~characterised~~

~~in that~~ wherein, during [[the]] processing of [[the]] pages in their natural order, [[the]] predicted quantities of products consumed for each page are stored, ~~with a view to a possible need for~~ selection.

Claim 33 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 29, ~~characterised~~ ~~in that~~ wherein, in order to carry out a selection, it is checked, page after page, whether there is a change from a state [[where]] in which all [[the]] reservoirs in [[said]] a group are not empty to a state (411) [[where]] in which at least one of [[them]] the reservoirs in the group is completely empty, and ~~such a~~ the selection (415) is decided on when ~~this event~~ the change occurs.

Claim 34 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 33, ~~characterised~~ ~~in that~~ wherein, when ~~such a~~ the selection is decided on, [[the]] a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages is predicted and stored.

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Claim 35 (currently amended): Method according to Claim ~~32~~, ~~characterised~~ ~~in that~~ 33, wherein, when ~~such a~~ the selection is decided on, [[the]] a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages is predicted and stored, and ~~in that said~~ wherein the selection ~~consists of seeking~~ includes determining whether a sub-group of pages (620) exists whose printing would result in a group of at least ~~several~~ some of the reservoirs being almost empty ~~at the end of the~~ when printing of [[these pages]] the sub-group ends.

Claim 36 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 35, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the sub-group is ~~such that determined to exist if~~ all ~~[[the]]~~ structurally related reservoirs (61) forming a cartridge would be empty ~~at the end of the~~ when printing of ~~[[this]]~~ the sub-group ends.

Claim 37 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 35, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the sub-group is ~~such that determined to exist if~~ several structurally related reservoirs forming a cartridge would be empty ~~at the end of the~~ when printing of ~~[[this]]~~ the sub-group ends.

Az Claim 38 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 36, ~~characterised in that said, wherein, if the sub-group is determined to exist, printing the~~ sub-group (627) is actually printed ~~when it can be determined and in that, and wherein~~ at least one message (628) is sent indicating ~~[[the]]~~ a need to change or fill the group of the reservoirs.

Claim 39 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 29, ~~characterised in that it consists~~ further comprising the steps of:

predicting ~~[[said]]~~ a quantity of ~~[[such]]~~ a printing product necessary for printing ~~[[such]]~~ a page~~[[,]]~~;

describing ~~[[this]]~~ the page by pixels (4); and

counting (6) ~~[[the]]~~ a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to ~~[[said]]~~


the printing product.

Claim 40 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 39, ~~characterised in~~
~~that the prediction of each~~ wherein the step of predicting the quantity of a printing product
~~necessary consists, for printing a page includes:~~

using ~~[[said]]~~ digital data on the page under consideration, ~~of;~~

creating a table (T_a , T_b , T_c , T_d) describing at least part of a monochromatic
~~component of said document, said,~~ with the monochromatic component corresponding to ~~[[said]]~~
the printing product and each cell of ~~[[said]]~~ the table representing a pixel~~[[,]]~~;

counting ~~[[the]]~~ a number of switched-on pixels in ~~[[this]]~~ the table and
deriving ~~therefrom~~ from the number of switched-on pixels in the table a necessary quantity of
~~aforementioned corresponding~~ the printing product.

 Claim 41 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 40, ~~characterised in~~
~~that an aforementioned~~ wherein

the table (T) of limited capacity is created with a limited capacity~~[[,]]~~ less than
~~[[the]]~~ a capacity necessary for describing ~~[[said]]~~ the monochromatic component ~~of said page, in~~
~~that,~~

there are entered successively ~~therein~~ in the table (T) of limited capacity groups
of pixels of ~~[[said]]~~ the monochromatic component ~~of said page, in that, and,~~

on each occasion ~~[[the]]~~ of counting, a number of switched-on pixels ~~[[are]]~~ is

counted until all ~~[[said]]~~ the monochromatic component of ~~said page~~ has been entered in ~~[[said]]~~ the table (T) and ~~[[its]]~~ the switched-on pixels have been counted (~~Figure 3~~).

Claim 42 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 41, ~~characterised in that it consists~~ further comprising the step of creating ~~[[each]]~~ a table of limited capacity from digital data representing adjacent bands of ~~[[said]]~~ the page.

Claim 43 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 42, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein overlapping broadened bands are selected, ~~in that and,~~ using ~~[[the]]~~ digital data corresponding ~~digital data~~ to the overlapping broadened bands, at least one enlarged table (103) is created, ~~allowing~~ which allows an image reprocessing entailing a modification of the switched-on pixels, ~~in that said~~ wherein the enlarged table is modified by applying a known correction algorithm (111), and ~~in that the~~ wherein counting of ~~[[the]]~~ switched-on pixels corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~ an excess part of ~~[[said]]~~ the enlarged table is excluded.

Claim 44 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 43, wherein the method is used for colour printing, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein as many enlarged tables (103) are created as there are printing products, with each enlarged table describing a monochromatic component of ~~said page~~, ~~in that, in a manner known per se,~~ wherein a correction algorithm (111) is applied to all the enlarged tables before separately effecting ~~[[the]]~~ counting of the switched-on pixels in each enlarged table for predicting ~~[[the]]~~ different quantities of required printing

products ~~required~~, of all ~~[[the]]~~ colours concerned.

Claim 45 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 40, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ further comprising a calculation step ~~consists~~ of multiplying (10) the number of switched-on pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of ~~[[said]]~~ the printing product.

Claim 46 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 45, wherein the method is for an inkjet printing system, ~~characterised in that said~~ and wherein the value represents ~~[[the]]~~ a value of a droplet of the printing product that is ejected.

Qr2 Claim 47 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 46, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the value is preselected according to predetermined parameters, ~~such as, for example, the~~ including a type of printer (7) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of cartridge (8) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of printing product (9).

Claim 48 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 47, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a set of ~~[[such]]~~ values is stored and ~~in that~~ one of ~~[[them]]~~ the values is selected according to ~~an actual~~ a combination of ~~[[such]]~~ the predetermined parameters.

Claim 49 (currently amended): Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in~~

that the 29, wherein measurement ~~or measurements~~ of a quantity of a printing product actually available ~~consists of~~ in a reservoir includes arranging a capacitive branch including ~~[[said]]~~ the reservoir (312a, 312d), applying an alternating signal (317) to ~~[[this]]~~ the capacitive branch, and analysing a resulting signal (315) in order to derive ~~therefrom said~~ from the resulting signal the quantity of the printing product ~~actually~~ available.

Claim 50 (currently amended): Device ~~according to Claim 15~~ for managing printing product resources available in a colour printer ~~containing that~~ includes several reservoirs of different printing products, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising:

divider means for dividing (2) a document stored ~~in the form of~~ as digital data, into groups of ~~[[such]]~~ digital data representing pages~~[[,]]~~;

Ar prediction means for predicting (10) ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing each page~~[[,]]~~ of the document, including:

means for dividing each page of the document into bands of the digital data,

means for creating, from the digital data, a table of limited capacity describing at least part of a monochromatic component of one of the bands, with the monochromatic component corresponding to the printing product and each cell in the table representing at least a pixel,

means for counting (6) a number of switched-on pixels in the table, with a switched-on pixel corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product

must be ejected, and

means for deriving from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band a necessary quantity (10) of the printing product before enabling or demanding printing;

measurement means for measuring (317, 324, 315), before printing, ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of a printing product ~~actually~~ available in a reservoir, for each reservoir~~[[,]]~~;

determination means for ~~seeking~~ determining a selection of pages (415) ~~[[which]]~~ that would ensure ~~[[the]]~~ exhaustion, at least approximately simultaneously, of at least one group of the reservoirs~~[[,]]~~; and

message means for sending a message and/or triggering ~~[[the]]~~ implementation of a processing, entailing ~~said selected~~ the selection of pages, ~~such as for example the printing of such selected pages.~~

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Claim 51 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 50, ~~characterised in~~
that the

wherein the prediction means ~~for predicting being used for predicting the~~
predicts a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing pages in their natural order, it
has and

further comprising:

update means for updating, after each series of predictions concerning a page, ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of each printing product ~~[[which]]~~ that would ~~actually~~ be available in

each reservoir[[,]];

checking means for checking (406), after each updating, whether a group of at least ~~several~~ some of the reservoirs are almost empty[[,]]; and

notice means for sending a message (408)[[,]] indicating [[the]] a need to change or fill the group of the reservoirs.

Claim 52 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 51, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising storage means for storing [[the]] predicted quantities of products consumed for each page, ~~during a~~ when processing ~~of the~~ pages in their natural order, ~~with a view to a possible need for selection.~~

Or
Claim 53 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 52, ~~characterised in that it has~~

wherein the prediction means ~~for predicting the~~ predicts a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing [[the]] remaining pages, and

wherein the storage means ~~for storing them~~ stores the predicted quantity of each printing product necessary for printing the remaining pages, when a selection of pages is decided on.


Claim 54 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 52, ~~characterised in that it has~~

wherein the prediction means ~~for predicting the~~ predicts a quantity of each printing product necessary for printing ~~[[the]]~~ remaining pages, and

wherein the storage means ~~for storing them~~ stores the predicted quantity of each printing product necessary for printing the remaining pages, when a selection of pages is decided on ~~and in that said,~~ and

wherein the determination means ~~for seeking a selection include means for~~ seeking determine whether a sub-group of pages (620) exists whose printing would result in a group of at least ~~several~~ some of the reservoirs being almost empty ~~at the end of the~~ when printing of ~~these pages~~ the sub-group ends.

Claim 55 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 50, ~~characterised in~~ that it has

 wherein the prediction means ~~for predicting said~~ predicts a quantity of ~~[[such]]~~ a printing product necessary for printing ~~[[such]]~~ a page, ~~comprising, and~~

further comprising:

describer means for describing ~~[[this]]~~ the page by pixels (4); and

counter means for counting (6) ~~[[the]]~~ a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to ~~[[said]]~~ the printing product.

Claim 56 (currently amended): Device according to claim 55, ~~characterised in~~ that it has further comprising:

creation means for creating a table (T_a , T_b , T_c , T_d) describing at least part of a monochromatic component ~~of said document~~, ~~[[said]]~~ with the monochromatic component corresponding to ~~[[said]]~~ the printing product and each cell of ~~[[said]]~~ the table representing a pixel, wherein the counter means ~~for counting the counts~~ a number of switched-on pixels in ~~[[this]]~~ the table; and

deriver means for deriving ~~therefrom~~ from the number of switched-on pixels in the table a necessary quantity of ~~aforementioned corresponding~~ the printing product.

Claim 57 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 56, ~~characterised in that it has an~~ aforementioned

wherein the table of limited capacity~~[[,]]~~ is created with a limited capacity less than ~~[[the]]~~ a capacity necessary for describing ~~[[said]]~~ the monochromatic component ~~of said~~ page, and

further comprising:

entry means for successively entering ~~therein~~ in the table of limited capacity groups of pixels of ~~[[said]]~~ the monochromatic component ~~of said page~~, and

wherein the counter means ~~[[for]]~~, on each occasion of counting ~~[[the]]~~, counts a number of switched-on pixels until all the ~~whole of the said~~ monochromatic component ~~of said~~ page has been entered in ~~[[said]]~~ the table of limited capacity and ~~[[its]]~~ the switched-on pixels have been counted (Figure 3).

Claim 58 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 57, ~~characterised in that it has~~ wherein the creation means for creating each limited-capacity creates the table of limited capacity from digital data representing adjacent bands of ~~[[said]]~~ the page.

Claim 59 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 58, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising:

selection means for selecting overlapping broadened bands, wherein the creation means for creating creates at least one enlarged table (103) from ~~the corresponding~~ digital data, allowing corresponding to the overlapping broadened bands, which allows an image reprocessing entailing a modification of the switched-on pixels~~[[,]]~~;

modification means for modifying ~~[[said]]~~ the enlarged table by applying a known correction algorithm (111); and

exclusion means for ~~deducting the~~ excluding counting of ~~[[the]]~~ switched-on pixels corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~ an excess part of ~~[[said]]~~ the enlarged table.

or
Claim 60 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 59,

wherein the device is used for colour printing, ~~characterised in that it has~~

wherein the creation means for creating creates as many enlarged tables (103) as there are printing products, with each enlarged table describing a monochromatic component of said page, and


further comprising

correction means for applying, ~~in a manner known per se~~, a correction algorithm (111) to all the enlarged tables; and

means for separately effecting ~~[[the]]~~ counting of the switched-on pixels ~~[[of]]~~ in each enlarged table for predicting ~~[[the]]~~ different quantities of required printing products, of all ~~[[the]]~~ colours concerned.

Claim 61 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 56, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising calculation means for multiplying (10) the number of switched-on pixels by a value representing an elementary quantity of ~~[[said]]~~ the printing product.

Claim 62 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 61 ~~[[for]]~~, wherein the device is used with an inkjet printing system, characterised in that said and wherein the value represents ~~[[the]]~~ a volume of a droplet of ~~ejected~~ the printing product that is ejected.

 Claim 63 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 62, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising preselection means for preselecting ~~[[said]]~~ the value as a function of predetermined parameters, ~~such as, for example, the~~ including a type of printer (7) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of cartridge (8) and/or ~~[[the]]~~ a type of printing product (9).

Claim 64 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 63, ~~characterised in that it has~~ further comprising:

storage means for storing a set of [[such]] values; and

selection means for selecting one of [[them]] the values according to ~~an actual~~
a combination of [[such]] the predetermined parameters.

Claim 65 (currently amended): Device according to Claim 50, ~~characterised in~~
~~that said~~ wherein the measurement means for ~~measuring a quantity of product actually available~~
~~include~~ comprises:

a capacitive branch including [[said]] the reservoir (312a, 312d)[[.]];

means for applying an alternating signal (317) to [[this]] the capacitive branch;

and

means for analysing a resulting signal (315) in order to derive ~~therefrom said~~
from the resulting signal the quantity of printing product ~~actually~~ available.

Or
Claims 66-68 (canceled)

Claim 69 (new) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a band consists of a
broadened band representing a band of a page of the document, increased by an overlap margin
belonging to a band following the broadened band, and wherein the counting of the number of
switched-on pixels in the table describing at least part of a monochromatic component of the
broadened band excludes [[the]] switched-on pixels corresponding to [[the]] an excess part of the
table.

Claim 70 (new): Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 69, wherein the table is modified by applying a known correction algorithm entailing modification of the switched-on pixels.

Claim 71 (new): Method according to Claim 70, wherein the method is used for colour printing, wherein as many tables are created as there are colours, with each table describing a monochromatic component of the document, and wherein a correction algorithm is applied to all the tables before separately effecting counting (6) of the switched-on pixels in each table for predicting different quantities of printing products required, of all the colours concerned.

Or
Claim 72 (new): Device according to Claim 15, further comprising divider means for dividing each page of the document into broadened bands, with a broadened band representing a band of a page of the document, increased by an overlap margin belonging to a band following the broadened band, wherein the counter means excludes switched-on pixels corresponding to an excess part of the table describing at least part of a monochromatic component of the broadened band.

Claim 73 (new): Device according to Claim 15 or Claim 72, further comprising modification means for modifying the table by applying a known correction algorithm entailing modification of the switched-on pixels.

Claim 74 (new): Device according to Claim 73,
wherein the device is used for colour printing,
wherein the creation means creates as many tables as there are colours, with
each table describing a monochromatic component of the document, and
further comprising:

correction means for applying a correction algorithm to all the tables;
and

means for separately effecting counting (6) of the switched-on pixels of
each table for predicting different quantities of required printing products, of all the colours
concerned.

Claim 75 (new): Information storage medium storing a program for causing a
programmable processing apparatus to perform a method of predicting a quantity of a printing
product necessary for printing a document, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

 storing a document in its entirety as digital data;


dividing each page of the document into bands of corresponding digital data;

creating, from the digital data, a table of limited capacity describing at least
part of a monochromatic component of one of the bands, with the monochromatic component
corresponding to the printing product and each cell of the table representing at least a pixel;

counting a number of switched-on pixels in the table, with a switched-on pixel
corresponding to a pixel for which a portion of the printing product must be ejected; and

deriving from a number of switched-on pixels corresponding to each band, a necessary quantity of the printing product before enabling or demanding printing.

Claim 76 (new): Information storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the medium is one of a magnetic tape, a magnetic diskette, a fixed-memory compact disc, and a rewritable compact disc.

 Claim 77 (new): Method according to Claim 29, wherein the measuring step for measuring a quantity of printing product available in a reservoir includes arranging a capacitive branch including the reservoir (312a, 312d), applying an alternating signal (317) to the capacitive branch, and analyzing a resulting signal (315) in order to derive therefrom the quantity of printing product available.
